

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 5-8, 10-14, 16, and 22-29 are now pending in the application. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1, 3-8, 10-14, and 16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takahama et al. (U.S. Pub. 2003/0032478) in view of Wells (U.S. Pat. No. 6,846,238). Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 1 recites a display method that includes projecting at least one moving image on at least one display area in a game board of a game machine from the back of a panel. The method also includes projecting a still image on the game board outside of the at least one display area, and setting a position parameter that determines a position of the display area, a number parameter that determines a number of the display area, and a size parameter that determines a size of the at least one display area where the moving image is displayed. The method also includes changing more than one of the position parameter, the number parameter, and the size parameter at a predetermined time while the moving image and the still image are displayed. The method also includes receiving an image changeover signal from a changeover switch operated by a user and projecting a game machine information image as the still image in response to the image changeover signal. The game machine information image

includes a hit frequency corresponding to the game machine. Takahama et al. and Wells fail to teach or suggest the display method of claim 1.

In the tennis match game program of Takahama et al., images of an opponent character and a ball character are moved over a still image of a tennis court. Takahama et al., para. [0137]. In Takahama et al., information annunciating the game progress, such as the tennis court, opponent character, ball character, scores, and acquired sets are displayed. Takahama et al., para. [0138]. Takahama et al. is silent however as to receiving an image changeover signal from a changeover switch operated by a user and projecting a game machine information image as the still image in response to the image changeover signal, with the game machine information image including a hit frequency corresponding to the game machine.

In Wells, status information such as a battery level and connection status may be provided by status lights. Wells, Col. 12, Lines 39-40. Wells is likewise silent however as to receiving an image changeover signal from a changeover switch operated by a user and projecting a game machine information image as the still image in response to the image changeover signal, with the game machine information image including a hit frequency corresponding to the game machine.

For at least the above reasons, Takahama et al. and Wells fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 1. With regard to claims 3 and 5, as well as new claim 22, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 1. Therefore, claims 3, 4, and 22 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 6 recites a display apparatus comprising a projection mechanism that projects an image from a back of a game board of a game machine, a control unit, and a changeover switch connected to the control unit. The changeover switch is operable by a user to generate an image changeover signal. The control unit causes the projection mechanism to project a game machine information image as the still image in response to said image changeover signal. The game machine information image includes a hit frequency corresponding to the game machine. Similar limitations are discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Takahama et al. and Wells fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 6. With regard to claims 7-8 and 10-13, as well as new claim 23, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 6. Therefore, claims 7-8, 10-13, and 23 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

Claim 14 recites a display method that includes receiving an image changeover signal from a changeover switch operated by a user and projecting a game machine information image as the still image in response to the image changeover signal. The game machine information image includes a hit frequency corresponding to the game machine. Similar limitations are discussed above with respect to claim 1.

For at least the above reasons, Takahama et al. and Wells fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 14. With regard to claim 16, as well as new claims 24 and 25, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 14. Therefore, claims 16, 24, and 25 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

New claim 26 recites a display apparatus comprising a projection mechanism, a control unit, and a changeover switch connected to the control unit. The changeover switch is operable by a user to generate an image changeover signal. The control unit causes the projection mechanism to project a game machine information image as a still image in response to the image changeover signal. The game machine information image includes a hit frequency corresponding to the game. Similar limitations are discussed above with respect to claim 1.


For at least the above reasons, Takahama et al. and Wells fail to teach or suggest each and every element of claim 26. With regard to new claims 27-29, Applicant notes that each either directly or indirectly depends from claim 26. Therefore, claims 27-29 also define over the prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (248) 641-1600.

Respectfully submitted,

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